

June 25, 2015 3:00 PM EST
Interlake State Recreation Area (SRA)
SR 68 (3.2 miles east of ST 61)
Lynnville, IN 47619

Attendance

Board Members Present:

All-Terrain Vehicle Users- Roy Garrett (Proxy)
Bicyclists- Jessica Hall
Environmental Groups- Kevin Hardie
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany
Health/Higher Education- Joan Cook
Hikers- Tim Calahan
Mountain Bikers- Jeff Fetterer
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Rick Dorfmeier
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones
Water Trail Users- Joe Rozsahegyi

Members Not Present:

Pedestrians- Pat Martin
Snowmobilers- Len Neisler
Trail Support Groups- Angie Pool
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls

DNR Staff:

Dale Brier- Outdoor Recreation
Bob Bronson- Outdoor Recreation
Jude Hays- Outdoor Recreation-Interlake
Lisa Herber- Outdoor Recreation
Carman Jackson- Outdoor Recreation
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation
Rich Reisz- Outdoor Recreation-Interlake

Guests:

Tom Hartman- NOHVCC
Allen Horn
Jay Jackson- ABATE of Indiana
Frank Merritt- HMBA
Staci Merritt
Marlo Sweany

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Chair Yvette Rollins called the meeting to order. Rollins welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ryan Sweany for helping to organize the day's activities.

Introductions

Rollins introduced Jeff Fetterer as the new vice chair. Everyone introduced themselves including guests.

Approval of the Agenda

Rollins asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes. Fetterer made a motion to approve the agenda and Kevin Hardie seconded. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of March 5th, 2015 Minutes

Rollins noted that Amy Marisavljevic already corrected a name change in the minutes and asked if there were any comments or amendments to the minutes. No changes. Hardie made a motion to approve the minutes and Sweany seconded. Motion carried.

DNR Report

Marisavljevic reported that Dale Brier attended the International Trails Symposium in May. The Symposium, which was held in Portland, Oregon, included an award ceremony where two Hoosiers won 2015 International Trails Awards. Mike Kuepper, President of Friends of the Nickel Plate Trail, was one of ten winners for the Trail Worker award. Roy Garrett was one of seven to win the Trail Advocacy Award. Brier presented the award to Garrett since he was not present to accept it at the award ceremony. Marisavljevic, Rick Dorfmeier, Jay Jackson, and Yvette Rollins also commented on Garrett's accomplishments in the motorized community and his 40+ years of trail advocacy. Additionally, Marisavljevic announced that Rollins recently won the 2015 Van Ness Award from the American Horse Council. Rollins has helped to advance the sport of trail riding in both Indiana and nationally. Rollins was on hand to accept the awards in Washington, DC earlier in June and further explained the honor to the board.

Marisavljevic announced that the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) will include a Trails Plan Update chapter and will be published by 2016. The plan will be available electronically as PDF on the Division of Outdoor Recreation's website as well as a select number of paper and CD copies. The DNR would like to thank everyone who provided feedback.

Marisavljevic reported that HB-1471 was officially passed by the legislature and was signed by Gov. Pence on April 27. It will now be known as Public Law 67 and will take effect on July 1. It outlines that the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation will author a set of trail guidelines by March 1, 2016. DNR will begin work on these guidelines later this year and will consult trail stakeholders, like the Trails Advisory Board (TAB), for feedback in the coming months.

Old Business

Travel Reimbursement

Marisavljevic reminded everyone that all TAB members and proxies are eligible for travel reimbursement, which can include mileage, overnight lodging, and meal per diem. All W-9s and direct deposit forms must be given to her before submitting travel expenses. Members must also see her to sign and date travel vouchers. Any further questions regarding travel should be directed to Marisavljevic.

National Trails Day

Marisavljevic reported that Indiana hosted between 20-30 different National Trails Day events. Events were held throughout the state and were targeted to a variety of different trail user types. Additionally, events ranged from workdays and educational events to recreational hikes, rides, and paddles. Marisavljevic attended the weekend long event at Southwestway Park in Indianapolis organized by Hoosier Mountain Bike Association and REI. Brier attended the annual Trails Day Ride on the B&O Trail in Brownsburg while Tim Calahan volunteered with equestrians on the Hickory Ridge Trail in Hoosier National Forest. Rollins participated in a workday and trail education with 4H kids in Greene Sullivan State Forest. Frank Merritt added that the Southwestway weekend event had 60 volunteers and included a workday, group rides, including one for women, and trail dedication. HMBA received a \$10,000 grant from REI and the Giant & Liv/Giant truck was on hand for demos. Melody Jones reported that Westfield

hosted a number of events including runs, rides, a bike rodeo, and a bike giveaway. Unfortunately, they did not have a great turnout. They hope to encourage other communities in Hamilton County to join them next year. Garrett stated that the Miracle Ride with a trail and adventure ride was held at Lawrence County Recreational Park. The two weekend total event raised \$250,000 for Riley Children's Hospital. Marisavljevic thanked everyone for helping to host and advertise events this year.

New Business

Recreation Trails Program

Bob Bronson explained that the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to States to develop and maintain both motorized and non-motorized trails. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allocates a percentage of the funds to each state from the gas tax for motorized recreation. The transportation bill continues to get extended and Indiana is planning on receiving just under \$1.2 million in RTP funds this year. The DNR utilizes 7% of these funds for administrative costs. 30% of the RTP funds must go to motorized trail projects while another 30% must go to non-motorized trail projects. The remaining 40% of funds are discretionary. All projects require at least a 20% match.

The DNR manages both 7% administrative funds and the 30% motorized funds, as they are the only applicant. This year the motorized funds will go into the snowmobile trail program, Redbird SRA, and Interlake SRA. Furthermore, the DNR will also utilize \$50,000 of dedicated non-motorized or discretionary funds to assist in the maintenance of Knobstone Trail.

The remaining funds will be dispersed through a number of competitive grants for non-motorized trail development. Bronson explained that the rising cost of environmental compliance and consulting fees has caused the DNR to increase grant maximums from \$150,000 last year to \$200,000 this year. With the 20% match, total project cost can be \$250,000. This year there were 14 applicants for RTP funding, with one withdrawal. After ranking the projects among the criteria, the first three projects could be fully funded and one project could be partially funded. They include:

Illinois Central Trail (SW of Bloomington): Monroe County Commissioners will acquire 21.4 acres and develop 1.77 miles of bike/pedestrian trail on a former railbed.

Wayne County National Road Heritage Trail (Richmond): City of Richmond will develop 1.08 miles of bike/ pedestrian trail as a part of the National Road Heritage Trail.

The Pumpkinvine Trail (Goshen): Elkhart County Park Board will develop a 0.95 mile bike/pedestrian trail to help eliminate a gap in the Pumpkinvine Trail.

The Big 4 Trail (Veedersburg): Veedersburg will develop a 1.1 mile bike/pedestrian trail on an abandoned railbed east of town. Project will be partially funded and receive a \$116,744 grant.

After summarizing the projects, Bronson answered questions. Fetterer inquired about the lack of natural surface trails receiving funding this year. Bronson replied that although eligible for funding, they had no applicants. He explained the current criteria awards points for a variety of items including type and miles, which he believes helps level the playing field. Bronson offered

the board an opportunity to go over the criteria at another meeting or meet personally to discuss any concerns. Bronson also explained that applicants can be either municipalities or trail-oriented non-profits, but the project has to be open to the public.

Calahan raised concerns about the Division of Forestry taking over the Knobstone Trail (KT), which would receive \$50,000 in funding for two years of maintenance. In particular, he voiced concern about using the grant on trail re-routes and maintenance due to timber harvests. Calahan made a motion to have the funds allocated for the KT maintenance re-allocated to help fund the Big 4 Trail more. The motion was not seconded. It was noted that the KT relies on RTP money to be maintained, and therefore open. Rollins suggested the TAB write a letter to Director Clark recommending him to encourage more cooperation between the user groups and DNR. Calahan made a motion the TAB author a recommendation letter, Hardie seconded. Motion passed. Rollins asked for a motion to recommend Director Clark approve the current list of projects. Jones made a motion and Fetterer seconded. Motion passed.

Other Business

Since the TAB is meeting in Muncie and East Central Indiana next, Hardie suggested the TAB have a presentation about the proposed Mounds Greenway project. Hardie recommended Tim Maloney, senior policy director at the Hoosier Environmental Council, serve as our guest speaker. The board agreed and Marisavljevic said she would work to arrange the guest speaker if he was available. Marisavljevic will work with Angie Pool on the details for the next meeting and will send them out in August.

Rollins mentioned that the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have both been introduced to a bill called the National Forest System Stewardship Act (S. 1110 and H.R. 845). Currently, the US National Forest has a backlog of trail maintenance. The Act will allow for a volunteer coordinator at each forest and eliminate a lot of the previous red tape for trail volunteers.

User Group Reports

All –Terrain Vehicles- No Report

Bicyclists – No report

Environmental Groups – Hardie mentioned that Canoes for Cause sponsored by Leinenkugel will be July 10 on the White River in Indianapolis and August 28 on the St. Joseph River in South Bend. The cleanup would be along the river and trails. The White River Festival will be September 11-27 and the theme will be “CREATE!” The two week celebration focuses on the waterways importance and is funded by a grant from the Pulliam Charitable Trust. A White River Cleanup Day will be September 12 in Noblesville. Hardie reported he is also working with Pulliam Charitable Trust to develop a smartphone app to direct the public to the natural and cultural resources along the river.

Equestrians - Rollins reported that Hoosier Backcountry Horseman will host a workday on July 11 in Deam Wilderness in the Hoosier National Forest. Volunteers are welcome.

Four-Wheel-Drive Users – No report

Health/ Higher Education- Joan Cook reported that Health by Design is working with an interdisciplinary state team to help address active transportation in the state, particularly biking and walking. The team, which also includes members from the Indiana State Health Department, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and AARP, attended a Walk Institute in Nashville, TN in May. They hope to have an active transportation plan and advisory committee in the future. So far the group has helped establish an internal Complete Streets policy at INDOT.

Hikers- Calahan reminded everyone of the uniqueness of the Knobstone Trail, the state's longest hiking and backpacking trail. Without it, Hoosier would have to leave the state to get a similar experience.

Mountain Bikers – Fetterer reported that the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) will host a work day on next phase on the Bobcat Bowl trail in Brown County State Park on July 11.

Off-Road Motorcyclists – Rick Dorfmeier stated that Roy Garrett and Jay Jackson have held 6 classes this year for teaching people how to ride safely. The program is in need of more trainers to teach classes. Interested persons should contact ABATE to learn more about the 4 day training.

Parks and Recreation Agencies- No report

Water Trail Users- No report

Announcements

National Parks & Recreation Month- July

The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience- September 19-20, 2015, Fort Harrison State Park

The Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference- October 25-28, Des Moines, IA

2015 Meeting Dates

September 3, 2015- Cardinal Greenway in Muncie

December 3, 2015- Southwestway Park & Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis

Adjournment - Rollins called for a motion for adjournment. Hardie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jones seconded. Motion carried.